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Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 01051 290435Z

21
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NIC-01 /092 W
---------- 074623
R 290315Z JAN 75
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3641
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG CH
SUBJ: PRC PUBLICIZES OFFSHORE SELF-RELIANCE

REF: 1974 HK 14026

SUMMARY: GIVEN THE HIGH LEVEL OF FOREIGN INTEREST IN PRC OFFSHORE OIL RESOURCES AND THE POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICTS OR PERHAPS FOR COOPERATION TO DEVELOP IN THE SEAS OFF CHINA, WE ARE STRUCK BY TWO RECENT NCNA RELEASES THAT EMPHASIZE PRC INTENT TO DEVELOP ITS OFFSHORE RESOURCES THROUGH SELF-RELIANCE. END SUMMARY

1. A JANUARY 25 ACCOUNT OF THE INSPIRATIONAL EFFECT OF THE NPC ON PRC OIL WORKERS GLOWINGLY DESCRIBES THE GREAT ADVANCES MADE BY PRC OFFSHORE OIL TECHNOLOGY AND THE SELF-DEVELOPED
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CAPABILITY ("IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AND MORE") OF DRILLING

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OFFSHORE WELLS FROM A PRC DESIGNED AND BUILT OIL DRILLING
THE REPORT CLOSES WITH A CALL TO "TAKE THE ROAD OF SELF-
RELIANCE FOREVER".

2. A SECOND NCNA REPORT JANUARY 26 ON THE NPC'S EFFECT
ON IMPROVING THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE PRC ENDS WITH
AN ACCOUNT OF WOMEN WORKERS DRILLING OFFSHORE OIL WELLS
AT TAKANG. IT ENCOURAGES THEM TO CARRY FORWARD THE RE-
VOLUTIONARY TRADITION AND "SELF-RELIANTLY EXPLORE AND DE-
VELOP OFFSHORE OIL RESOURCES".

3. WE ARE STRUCK BY THE CONNECTION DRAWN BETWEEN OFF-
SHORE DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE. AS A WELL-WORN
THEME OF PRC PROPOGANDA , SELF-RELIANCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN
AT LEAST IMPLICIT IN PRC INTENTIONS OFFSHORE. THE DIF-
FERENCE THERE IS MAINLY OF NUANCE, THE IMPLICATION BEING
THAT THE PRC DOES NOT NEED TO RELY ON THE WEST AT ITS
PRESENT LIMITED STAGE OF OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT. ONE CAN
OF COURSE READ TOO MUCH INTO WHAT IS ADMITTEDLY PROPO-
GANDA, BUT THE MESSAGE DOES SEEM CLEAR. THE NEWS ITEMS
IMPLY A HOPE THAT AS THE PRC'S PETROLEUM INTERESTS LEAD
IT INTO DEEPER WATER ITS TECHNOLOGY CAN DEVELOP A PACE
AND IT CAN KEEP FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT TO A MINIMUM, IF
NOT EXCLUDE IT ALTOGETHER.
CROSS

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